

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PM-05  
H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 FMC-01 CG-00  
DLOS-09 OES-09 LAB-04 SIL-01 /098 W  
-----056487 010252Z /70

R 290652Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4442

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CIVIL AVIATION  
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 246005, (B) STATE 232383  
(NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED GOA (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
JOHN ROWLAND, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT) OF U.S. DESIRE TO  
BEGIN CIVIL AVIATION TALKS IN CANBERRA ON MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13. ROWLAND INDICATED THAT WHILE HE WOULD TRY

TO RESPOND TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH MINISTER  
NIXON LEAVING TODAY FOR TRIP TO UK AND U.S., IT WOULD  
OBVIOUSLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR SOME WHILE.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NIXON TRIP TO U.S. HAVE BEEN MADE  
ENTIRELY BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND EMBASSY  
WAS INADVERTENTLY NOT INFORMED OF PLANNED VISIT UNTIL  
ROWLAND CONVERSATION. NIXON WILL SPEND ONE WEEK IN LONDON AND  
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WILL ARRIVE IN U.S. OCTOBER 9, SPENDING OCTOBER 10 AND 11  
ON CALLS IN WASHINGTON. HIS SCHEDULE INCLUDES MEETINGS TO  
DISCUSS INTERSCAN NAVIGATIONS SYSTEM, AND MEETINGS AT CAB,  
FEDERAL MARITIME BOARD, AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

3. ALTHOUGH NIXON WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO RAMIFICATIONS OF POSSIBLE NOVEMBER 13 AVIATION TALKS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH HIM.

4. AUSTRALIAN PRESS HAD HAD FLURRY OF ARTICLES ON AVIATION MATTERS RECENTLY. THESE HAVE INCLUDED SEPARATE ARTICLES ALLEGING THAT DOMESTIC AVIATION STUDY AND INTERNATIONAL

AVIATION STUDY HAVE FOUND TAA, ANSETT, AND QANTAS TO BE AMONG WORLD'S LEAST EFFICIENT AIRLINES, BLASTS BY FREDDY LAKER AT AUSTRALIAN INTRANSIGENCE, ANNOUNCEMENT BY ACTU (AUSTRALIAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS) OF A DISCOUNT

FARE ARRANGEMENT FOR LABOR UNION MEMBERS THROUGH ITS RELATED TRAVEL AGENCY, USING AIRLINES OTHER THAN QANTAS (AND WHICH OTHER TRAVEL AGENCIES ARE CLAIMING IS NOT LEGAL), AND REPORTS THAT THE LONG-AWAITED INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION POLICY REVIEW WILL BE RELEASED IN A WEEK. REPORTS THAT POLICY REVIEW WOULD BE RELEASED APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY LAKER/ACTU INITIATIVES, WITH RERUN OF GOA'S BLOCK FARE PROPOSAL AS CONTAINED IN REPORT (AND DISCUSSED IN PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING) HAVING BEEN FED TO PRESS AS AN OSTENSIBLY NEW ALTERNATIVE TO LAKER/ACTU DISCOUNT FARES.

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5. U.S. FARE ISSUE HAS LARGELY LOST ITS IMMEDIATE NEWSWORTHINESS IN MIDST OF THESE OTHER MORE HEADLINE-CATCHING MATERIALS. EMBASSY AGREES COMPLETELY WITH DEPARTMENT'S THINKING AS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL B THAT TIME IS APPROPRIATE FOR SPOTLIGHT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION TO ILLUMINATE U.S.-AUSTRALIA FARE ISSUE, AND INFORMATION REFTEL B WAS INCORPORATED IN PRESS BACKGROUNDER ALREADY UNDER PREPARATION AT THE TIME. THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY ICA TO A NUMBER ON REPORTER HANDLING AVIATION.

HOWEVER, AUSTRALIAN PRESS TENDS TO SEEK DRAMATIC, CONFRONTATIONAL TYPE OF MATERIAL, AND WE KNOW OF ONE REPORTER WHO DROPPED PLAN TO BASE STORY ON BACKGROUNDER WHEN HE WAS UNABLE TO ELICIT INFLAMMATORY STATEMENT FROM IGMS. THIS INCIDENT SUGGESTS THAT PROVISION OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL HAS BEEN TAKEN NOTE OF BY AVIATION REPORTERS AND WILL LIKELY BE INCORPORATED INTO REPORTING WHEN FOCUS AGAIN TURNS TOWARDS U.S., AS IT WILL ONCE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN AVIATION TALKS ARE ANNOUNCED.

ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, AIRLINES, AIR FARES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CANBER07980  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780400-1004  
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**From:** CANBERRA  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 9889b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 246005, 78 STATE 232383  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1445371  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** EAIR, OTRA, AS, US, ACTU, QUANTAS, TAA, ANSETT, (ROWLAND, JOHN), (NIXON, PETER J), (LAKER, FREDDY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9889b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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